United Nations A/C.3/61/L.1

General Assembly

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Sixty-first session
Third Committee

Organization of the work of the Third Committee

Note by the Secretariat

Allocation of items

1. The agenda items allocated by the General Assembly to the Third Committee will be issued in document A/C.3/61/1. Background information on those items may be found in the annotations to the agenda (see A/61/100 and Add.1).

Programme of work

2. The draft programme of work (see annex) has been prepared bearing in mind paragraph (b) of rule 99 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, Assembly decision 60/537 on the programme of work of the Third Committee for the sixty-first session, the provisional agenda of the sixty-first session (A/61/150), relevant resolutions and decisions adopted by the Assembly on the rationalization of its work and that of the Third Committee and the availability of documentation, and past experience in the utilization of conference services.

Question time and interactive dialogues and debates

3. In accordance with the established practice of the Committee and pursuant to paragraphs 3 (c) and (d) of the annex to General Assembly resolution 58/316 of 1 July 2004, immediately following the introduction of reports by executive heads and senior members of the Secretariat at the beginning of each debate, interactive debates and question time will be held with heads of departments and offices, representatives of the Secretary-General, special rapporteurs and other special mechanisms as part of the formal proceedings of the Committee. Delegations are invited to participate actively in these dialogues with questions and unscripted comments. Prepared statements are to be delivered immediately following the dialogues with senior officials of the United Nations.

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Statements

4. The list of speakers for the general discussion on agenda items allocated to the Third Committee will be opened on Monday, 18 September 2006.

5. In accordance with the established practice of the Committee, statements made during the general discussion under each agenda item will be limited to 7 minutes, and to 15 minutes for statements made on behalf of a group of delegations. Statements of Secretariat officials will be limited to 7 minutes, with the exception of oral reports.

6. Under item 66 of the provisional agenda, "Promotion and protection of human rights", delegations may make one statement under sub-item (a) and one statement under sub-item (d), which are to be discussed sequentially. Under sub-items (b) and (c), which are to be considered jointly, delegations may make two separate statements, that is, one on each sub-item, if they so wish.

7. Similarly, under items 64, "Elimination of racism and racial discrimination" and 65, "Right of peoples to self-determination", which are to be discussed jointly, delegations may also make two separate statements, if they so wish.

8. In accordance with previous decisions of the General Assembly, delegations should exercise their right of reply at the end of the day whenever two meetings have been scheduled for the consideration of the relevant agenda item on that day, or at the conclusion of the consideration of the item, if that is sooner. The first statement should be limited to 5 minutes and the second, if any, to 3 minutes.

List of documents

9. Attention is drawn to the addendum to the present note (A/C.3/61/L.1/Add.1), which will list the documentation submitted under each of the agenda items allocated to the Third Committee.

Conference facilities and meetings arrangements

10. Unless otherwise specified, meetings will be held at 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. The General Assembly has reminded delegations that punctuality is of the utmost importance for ensuring an effective and orderly organization of work and achieving economies for the United Nations. As decided by the Assembly, the requirement that at least one quarter of the members of the Committee must be present to declare a meeting open and permit the debate to proceed has been waived.

Report of the Economic and Social Council

11. In paragraph 4 (c) of the annex to General Assembly resolution 58/316, the Assembly decided that the item entitled "Report of the Economic and Social Council" should be considered in its entirety in plenary meeting. Subsequently it was clarified that, in implementing that decision, the relevant parts of chapter I of the report of the Economic and Social Council that relate to agenda items allocated to the Main Committees would be considered by the Committee concerned (see A/59/250/Add.1 and A/C.3/59/1/Add.2).

Report of the Human Rights Council

12. Bearing in mind rule 97 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, should the Assembly decide to allocate item 147, "Report of the Human Rights Council", of its provisional agenda to the Third Committee, the Committee would have to decide when it wishes to take up the item.

Conclusion of the work of the Committee

13. Bearing in mind the number of meetings allocated to the Third Committee, a proposed target date of 22 November has been set for the conclusion of its work.

Annex

Draft programme of work of the Third Committee

Week of 2-6 October

Monday, 2 October

10 a.m.

Organizational matters, followed by

Introductory statements, dialogue with senior Secretariat officials and general discussion of:

Item 59. Social development

(a) Implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development and of the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly

(b) Social development, including questions relating to the world social situation and to youth, ageing, disabled persons and the family

(c) United Nations Literacy Decade: education for all

(d) Follow-up to the International Year of Older Persons: Second World Assembly on Ageing

1 p.m. — Closure of the list of speakers on item 59

3 p.m.

Item 59 — General discussion (continued)

Tuesday, 3 October

10 a.m. and 3 p.m.

Item 59 — General discussion (continued)

Wednesday, 4 October

10 a.m.

Item 59 — General discussion (concluded)

1 p.m. — Deadline for submission of proposals on item 59

3 p.m.

Introductory statements, dialogue with senior Secretariat officials and general discussion of:

Item 95. Crime prevention and criminal justice

Item 96. International drug control

6 p.m. — Closure of the list of speakers on items 95 and 96

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Thursday, 5 October

10 a.m. and 3 p.m.

Items 95 and 96 — General discussion (continued)

Friday, 6 October

10 a.m. and 3 p.m.

Items 95 and 96 — General discussion (concluded)

6 p.m. — Deadline for submission of proposals on items 95 and 96

Week of 9-13 October

Monday, 9 October

10 a.m. and 3 p.m.

Introductory statements, dialogue with senior Secretariat officials and general discussion of:

Item 60. Advancement of women

(a) Advancement of women

(b) Implementation of the outcome of the Fourth World Conference on Women and of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly

1 p.m. — Closure of the list of speakers on item 60

Tuesday, 10 October

10 a.m. and 3 p.m.

Item 60 — General discussion (continued)

Wednesday, 11 October

10 a.m.

Item 60 — General discussion (concluded)

1 p.m. — Deadline for submission of proposals on item 60

3 p.m.

Item 62. Promotion and protection of the rights of children

(a) Promotion and protection of the rights of children

(b) Follow-up to the outcome of the special session on children

Launch of the Secretary-General's study on violence against children

Introductory statements, dialogue with senior Secretariat officials and general discussion

Thursday, 12 October

10 a.m.

Item 62 — General discussion (continued)

3 p.m.

Action on proposals, followed by

Item 62 — General discussion (continued)

Friday, 13 October

10 a.m. and 3 p.m.

Item 62 — General discussion (concluded)

6 p.m. — Deadline for submission of proposals on item 62

Week of 16-20 October

Monday, 16 October

10 a.m. and 3 p.m.

Introductory statements, dialogue with senior Secretariat officials and general discussion of:

Item 63. Indigenous issues

(a) Indigenous issues

(b) Second International Decade of the World's Indigenous People

1 p.m. — Closure of list of speakers on item 63

Tuesday, 17 October

10 a.m.

Item 63 — General discussion (concluded)

1 p.m. — Deadline for submission of proposals on item 63

3 p.m.

Introductory statements, dialogue with senior Secretariat officials and general discussion of:

Item 66. Promotion and protection of human rights

(a) Implementation of human rights instruments

(d) Comprehensive implementation of and follow-up to the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action

6 p.m. — Closure of list of speakers on items 66 (a) and (d)

Wednesday, 18 October

10 a.m.

Item 66 (d) — General discussion (concluded)

1 p.m. — Deadline for submission of proposals on items 66 (a) and (d)

3 p.m.

Introductory statements, dialogue with Secretariat officials and general discussion of:

Item 66 (b). Human rights questions, including alternative approaches for improving the effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms

Item 66 (c). Human rights situations and reports of special rapporteurs and representatives

6 p.m. — Closure of list of speakers on items 66 (b) and (c)

Thursday, 19 October

10 a.m.

Items 66 (b) and (c)

Dialogue with special rapporteurs/special representatives/independent experts

3 p.m.

Indicative deadline for action on proposals under items 59, 60, 62, 63, 95 and 96, followed by Dialogue with special rapporteurs/special representatives/independent experts

Friday, 20 October

10 a.m. and 3 p.m.

Items 66 (b) and (c)

Dialogue with special rapporteurs/special representatives/independent experts

Week of 23-27 October

Monday, 23 October

10 a.m. and 3 p.m.

Items 66 (b) and (c)

Dialogue with special rapporteurs/special representatives/independent experts

Tuesday, 24 October

United Nations holiday

Wednesday, 25 October

10 a.m. and 3 p.m.

Items 66 (b) and (c)

Dialogue with special rapporteurs/special representatives/independent experts

Thursday, 26 October

10 a.m.

Informal consultations

3 p.m.

Action on draft proposals

Friday, 27 October

10 a.m. and 3 p.m.

Items 66 (b) and (c) — General discussion (resumed)

Week of 30 October-3 November

Monday, 30 October

10 a.m. and 3 p.m.

Items 66 (b) and (c) — General discussion (continued)

Tuesday, 31 October

10 a.m. and 3 p.m.

Items 66 (b) and (c) — General discussion (continued)

Wednesday, 1 November

10 a.m. and 3 p.m.

Items 66 (b) and (c) — General discussion (continued)

Thursday, 2 November

10 a.m. and 3 p.m.

Items 66 (b) and (c) — General discussion (continued)

6 p.m. — Deadline for submission of proposals on items 66 (b) and (c)

Friday, 3 November

10 a.m. and 3 p.m.

Informal consultations

Week of 6-10 November

Monday, 6 November

10 a.m. and 3 p.m.

Introductory statements, dialogue with senior Secretariat officials and general discussion of:

Item 64. Elimination of racism and racial discrimination

(a) Elimination of racism and racial discrimination

(b) Comprehensive implementation of and follow-up to the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action

Item 65. Right of peoples to self-determination

1 p.m. — Closure of the list of speakers on items 64 and 65

Tuesday, 7 November

10 a.m.

Items 64 and 65 — General discussion (concluded)

1 p.m. — Deadline for submission of proposals on items 64 and 65

3 p.m.

Introductory statements, dialogue with senior Secretariat officials and general discussion of:

Item 40. Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, questions relating to refugees, returnees and displaced persons and humanitarian questions

6 p.m. — Closure of list of speakers on item 40

Wednesday, 8 November

10 a.m. and 3 p.m.

Item 40 — General discussion (concluded)

6 p.m. — Deadline for submission of proposals on item 40

Thursday, 9 November

10 a.m. and 3 p.m.

Informal consultations

Friday, 10 November

10 a.m. and 3 p.m.

Informal consultations

Week of 13-17 November

Monday, 13 November

10 a.m. and 3 p.m.

Action on proposals

Tuesday, 14 November

10 a.m. and 3 p.m.

Action on proposals

Wednesday, 15 November

10 a.m. and 3 p.m.

Action on proposals

Thursday, 16 November

10 a.m. and 3 p.m.

Action on proposals

Friday, 17 November

10 a.m. and 3 p.m.

Action on proposals

Week of 20-24 November

Monday, 20 November

10 a.m. and 3 p.m.

Action on proposals

Tuesday, 21 November

10 a.m. and 3 p.m.

Action on proposals

Wednesday, 22 November

10 a.m. and 3 p.m.

Action on outstanding proposals and provisional programme of work for the sixty-second session

Conclusion of the work of the Third Committee